

lized. This section may be useful to those seeking a concise yet critical review of these topics. Those who wish more detailed review can utilize the extensive reference list. Most of the references date from the 1970s and before, with 10% bearing a date of 1980 or later. That's par for the course in most hard-cover books.

For readers seeking a detailed, well-documented review of fundamental platelet physiology and biochemistry/pharmacology, it is here if one can devote the effort to heavy reading. Those seeking a less-detailed and more dynamic overview will find this book heavy going. Finally, those seeking clinical guidance will find the final section a useful but brief introduction to the state of the art. For specific guidance on clinical problems, there is little help here. If you wish to know the value of measuring circulating platelet aggregates, for example, it is mentioned, but there is no critical discussion. Or if you want information on heparin thrombocytopenia, it too is mentioned, but with only a single reference (the book's reference number 460, and that paper does *not* deal with heparin-induced thrombocytopenia, but with *in vitro* heparin induced platelet aggregation).

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NEUROLOGY FOR NON-NEUROLOGISTS—Edited by Wigbert C. Wiederholt, MD, Department of Neurosciences, School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. Academic Press, Inc., 111 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003, 1982. 400 pages, \$37.50.

This concise textbook provides an excellent introduction to the field for medical students as well as a useful guide for general physicians interested in a variety of neurological topics. The multi-authored volume includes chapters dealing with the neurological history and examination of both adult and pediatric patients. There is a section devoted to laboratory studies in neurological disease. This includes chapters on lumbar puncture, spinal fluid examination, electromyography, electroencephalography, evoked potentials, neuroradiology and neuropsychological testing. The remainder of the book deals with specific neurological disorders including headache, stroke, dementia, demyelinating disorders, motor system diseases, the metabolic encephalopathies, the myopathies, neuropathies, seizures, Parkinson's Disease, infections, dizziness and vertigo, congenital anomalies, hereditary disorders, learning disability, tumors, cranial and spinal trauma and radiculopathies. A large number of useful tables have been included. The bibliographies in each chapter are terse. With 11 individual authors, the writing of the book is somewhat uneven; however, the authors have assembled a very useful, practical guide to the field for the nonspecialist.

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MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION—ITS PRESENTATION, PATHOGENESIS AND TREATMENT—Robin M. Norris, MB, ChB(NZ), MD(Birm), FRCP(Lond), FRACP, Physician in Charge, Coronary Care Unit, Green Lane Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand, and Honorary Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Auckland, Churchill Livingstone, Inc., 1560 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 1982. 316 pages, \$49.00.

The monograph contains 27 chapters with the text being divided into three parts. Part I is titled "Natural History of Myocardial Infarction" and contains 13 chapters ranging from coronary risk factors to electrocardiogram cardiac enzymes and radionuclide scanning in myocardial infarction. Part II contains six chapters dealing with the treatment of myocardial infarction and Part III has several chapters on the experimental models of infarction and their applicability to clinical practice.

The majority of the chapters have been written by Dr Norris alone or in coauthorship with others. The chapters are well organized, brief, to-the-point and well referenced; the most

recent references are 1980. The chapters on clinical presentations, disorders of cardiac function during and after infarction, arrhythmias in acute myocardial infarction, conduction disturbances due to infarction, complications of myocardial infarction and prognosis after myocardial infarction are very well presented. The chapter on acute coronary care outlines the concepts of immediate care and the management of arrhythmias.

The first two parts of the book are clinically oriented and provide readers with considerable amounts of information on the pathophysiology and natural history of myocardial infarction and should be valuable to internists with responsibility for treating patients with acute myocardial infarction. Also, there is valuable information for practicing cardiologists.

One apparent weakness of the book lies in the lack of adequate emphasis on the pharmacology and pharmacokinetics of various drugs used in acute myocardial infarction, although a reasonable review is presented in Chapter 16 titled "Treatment for Complications of Infarction." Also a chapter each on anticoagulant, antithrombotic and antiplatelet drugs in myocardial infarction and one on the place of cardiac surgery in myocardial infarction is included. A detailed mention of the role of thrombolytic therapy and the use of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty in acute myocardial infarction would have enhanced the text.

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CLINICAL ETHICS: A Practical Approach to Ethical Decisions in Clinical Medicine—Albert R. Jonsen, PhD, Professor of Ethics in Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco; Mark Siegler, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Section of General Internal Medicine, Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago; and William J. Winslade, PhD, JD, Co-Director, Program in Medicine, Law and Human Values, Adjunct Professor of Law, School of Law, and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles. Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022, 1982. 187 pages, \$18.00.

This small volume is one of those rare medical texts that deserves to be read from cover to cover as well as for reference. The initial reading, which can be accomplished in just a few hours, is enjoyable because the book systematically analyzes and clarifies many of the gray areas in the patient-physician encounter that in many ways cause the physician more stress than do decisions about purely clinical problems. It is a useful guide for physicians who have to make judgments. The major headings are (1) indications for medical intervention, (2) preference of patients, (3) quality of life and (4) external factors. The book is particularly helpful on questions involving prolonging of life, specifically on orders not to resuscitate, and on autonomy of the patient, truthful disclosure and use of placebos.

Uniformly excellent and brief clinical case presentations are followed by a discussion "comment" and finally by "counsel" in which the three authors—a professor of ethics, a physician and an attorney—give their carefully weighed opinions. The book identifies three types of encounters: acute life-threatening disorders, chronic lethal disease and chronic debilitating disease; it meticulously dissects the specific problems that each of these situations entail. The authors do not hesitate to acknowledge the occasional dilemma, when no easy answer is available; for instance, in the area of confidentiality. They sometimes suggest that some particularly difficult questions cannot be solved either by physician or patient but may require an outside review committee's help. In a general way the authors stress the need to elicit the patient's preference and inclinations. Although a special chapter is devoted to external factors, most decisions are in the hands of the physician and the patient; patient's relatives have rather little authority.

The book certainly belongs in every internist's office, especially those subspecialists who see many dying patients. It would grace any morning report session, and might be particularly helpful to chairmen of departments of medicine, to remind everybody that decision-making involves many personal considerations in addition to hard medical facts.

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